

**House of Representatives
Higher Education
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
April 28	All Day	Bothell	Full Committee	Campus Visit and Campus/Community Meeting: University of Washington Bothell	Work Session
April 29	All Day	Tacoma	Full Committee	Campus Visit and Campus/Community Meeting: University of Washington Tacoma	Work Session
June 3	All Day	TriCities	Full Committee	Campus Visit and Campus/Community Meeting: Washington State University TriCities	Work Session
June 10	All Day	Vancouver	Full Committee	Campus Visit and Campus/Community Meeting: Washington State University Vancouver	Work Session
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Final 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Reports Due in Higher Education: Review of Findings and Recommendations	Work Session

Project Title: Campus Visits and Campus/Community Meetings

Project Goal:

Discuss the development of plans for the future evolution of each branch campus with administrators, faculty, students, and community representatives.

Project Description:

Substitute House Bill 2707 enacted in 2004 requires each of the four remaining branch campuses to conduct a self-study with community input and recommend a plan for the future evolution of the campus. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will review the recommendations in the context of statewide higher education needs and present policy options to the Legislature for the 2005 Legislative Session. In preparation for these recommendations, the Higher Education Committee will visit each campus during the 2004 Interim. Each site visit will include a campus tour and review of the ten-year capital plan; an update on current programs and partnerships with community colleges; discussion of the future needs of the campus and possible campus evolution; and a community meeting that includes local community colleges, business and labor leaders, economic development councils, chambers of commerce, etc. Local legislators will be invited to attend the meetings.

Number & Type of Meetings: 4, Work Sessions including tour, presentations, and opportunity for public comment

Completion Date: June 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Susan Howson, Charlie Gavigan

Project Title: Final 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education

Project Goal:

Discuss the findings and recommendations of the Higher Education Coordinating Board's 2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education

Project Description:

Under Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2076 enacted in 2003, the HECB was required to submit a draft strategic master plan for higher education in December 2003, to be followed by a final plan in June. Also under the bill, a legislative work group met during the 2003 Interim to provide guidance and direction for the development of the plan. The HECB complied with its initial mandate, but there is ongoing discussion among legislators and members of the Board regarding expectations for the final plan. At the September Committee Assembly meeting, the Higher Education Committee will discuss the final plan and its implications for the ensuing biennial budget and upcoming legislative session.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1, Work Session and Public Hearing

Completion Date: September 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

Project Title: Reports Due in Higher Education

Project Goal:

Review findings and recommendations from selected reports required from state education agencies or task forces.

Project Description:

Legislation and budget provisos from 2004 mandated a number of studies and reports in higher education, ranging from a Transition Math Project to align standards and improve instruction in mathematics; a study of barriers and incentives to expanding dual enrollment programs; policy alternatives and cost estimates for various enrollment growth scenarios; strategies, timelines, and benchmarks for reducing remediation; and recommendations for development of a women's history center or information network. When we have a better idea of the progress of some of these efforts, the Higher Education Committee will select one or two for a work session and discussion at the December Committee assembly meeting.

Number & Type of Meetings: 1, Work Session

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: ABE, ESL, and GED Programs

Project Goal:

Improve the Committee's understanding of the purpose, scope, and current issues pertaining to Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, and General Equivalent to the Diploma programs offered in community and technical colleges.

Project Description:

During 2003, Washington participated with the National Collaborative for Postsecondary Education in a comprehensive review to help establish a public agenda for higher education. One of the preliminary findings from the Collaborative's review was that ABE, ESL, and GED preparation need much more attention, even though these programs are not regularly identified as crucial to the future development of the state's higher education system. Indicators of the importance of this issue include: a growing number of young people do not have high school diplomas; the rate of enrollment growth in these programs in community and technical colleges is far greater than for other programs; research indicates these programs have limited success when offered in isolation rather than in combination with specific job and workforce training. However, these programs have not been comprehensively reviewed by the Higher Education Committee in recent years. Staff will gather and summarize data and information regarding the size, scope, cost, and current issues pertaining to ABE, ESL, and GED programs. A review of the research literature, practices in other states, and model programs in Washington will be conducted to identify possible policy options for improving these programs. Findings and options may be presented at a future work session of the committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester, Barbara McLain, Susan Howson

Project Title: Current Topics in Higher Education and Economic Development

Project Goal:

Study two areas where higher education and economic development intersect: supply and demand of degrees and workforce training and technology transfer.

Project Description:

The importance of higher education to economic development is frequently discussed and highlighted by the media, industry groups such as AeA and the Technology Alliance, the Governor's Competitiveness Council, and the Washington Roundtable. In order to make informed policy decisions, the Higher Education Committee needs a more in-depth understanding of two key issues in this relationship: supply and demand of degrees and workforce training, and technology transfer. Staff will work with state education agencies to analyze and summarize data regarding supply and demand for two- and four-year degrees and workforce training and retraining, including breaking down the data by major academic field. Staff will also summarize current state and institutional policies regarding technology transfer in Washington compared to other states and provide additional background for the committee regarding the process of turning academic research into a business. Findings may be presented at a future work session of the committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain

Project Title: Preparing Teachers to Teach Diverse Students

Project Goal:

Provide background information and review how teacher preparation programs prepare future teachers to teach diverse students.

Project Description:

Washington's student population is increasingly diverse. In 1981, minority students made up 12 percent of the school population. By 2001, this proportion had more than doubled to 27 percent. This is a concern to policy-makers because minority students have higher dropout rates and lower test scores than non-minority students. A question for the Higher Education Committee is: How are future teachers being prepared to teach an increasingly diverse student population? To answer this question, staff will conduct a literature review on teacher preparation pertaining to diverse students and gather information through interviews and possibly a survey about current practices of teacher preparation programs in Washington. Findings may be presented at a future work session of the committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Sydney Forrester, OPR Summer Intern

Project Title: Tuition Policy

Project Goal:

Explore tuition policy options.

Project Description:

Staff of the Higher Education and Appropriations Committees will examine tuition-setting policies in other states; review the research literature on affordability of higher education; identify the data necessary and available to estimate the costs of various tuition policies; develop options for how policies might be structured; and outline possible advantages and disadvantages of policy alternatives. Staff will summarize findings in a report that may be presented at a future work session of the committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Susan Howson

Project Title: Tuition Waivers Review

Project Goal:

Review current policies and practices for granting tuition waivers at higher education institutions and develop options for a policy framework.

Project Description:

There are more than twenty different types of tuition waivers established in statute. Most have been in existence for some time, but several developments drive the need for a new review of waivers. The amount of tuition an institution may waive and still receive compensatory state funds is capped in statute. The 2003-05 operating budget directs institutions to limit the amount of tuition waived, temporarily reducing the statutory cap. In 2004, one higher education institution claimed its percentage cap was outdated and needed revision. Finally, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges recently completed a comprehensive study of waiver policy for the colleges. Before the next biennial budget, the Higher Education and Appropriations Committees should review the current use of tuition waivers and consider options for updating the state's policies. Staff will summarize current policies and practices; describe the fiscal implications of tuition waivers; and develop options for a policy framework for granting tuition waivers. Findings and options may be presented at a future work session of the committee.

Number & Type of Meetings: None scheduled

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Barbara McLain, Sydney Forrester, Susan Howson
